

# Weekly Notes

## Population and Private Enterprise

ALONE among the big business magnates, JRD is population-conscious and it is therefore natural that he should feel unhappy that though it is now widely recognised as a problem, little is being done about its solution. Surely, it is not beyond the medical, scientific and administrative possibilities of the day to reduce the rate of population growth for the next 25 or 50 years. But is population a question primarily of medicine, science or administration? It is good that JRD does not see in the restriction of population a universal remedy for all our economic ills. The Government is now apprised of the problem, but it is not seized with it, and the sort of short-cut such as the rhythmic method to which the Government subscribes, suggests a psychological resistance to more effective and accepted methods of restriction that are known to science. The reluctance to face the problem squarely may arise from ethical or economic considerations for the argument cannot yet be brushed aside that it is useless to discuss contraceptives in a country where medicine has not yet been socialised, and who is to foot the bill for socialised medicine?

Equally germane are JRD's observations on mixed economy. He deplores the cavalier fashion in which the Government is treating private enterprise which is after all one of the legs on which mixed economy moves. More obvious is the inadequacy of the private sector and JRD would have made his case stronger had he looked at it from a wider perspective. At the moment when the spectre of falling effective demand is raising its head, the argument for expanding public sector would be just as plausible, but JRD does not view the problem from the employment angle. He would be on more firm ground if he could prove that the public sector was impinging on savings and discriminating against honest and efficient management rather than blaming it for expanding its scope. True enough, the sense of trusteeship cannot be fostered unless more responsibility is given to the private sector but it is difficult to share his faith that this alone would make private enterprise put the national above sectional and personal interests.

## New Delhi Talks And After

THERE can be no smoke without fire. Mr Ghulam Mohammed, Pakistani Governor-General, has denied widely-circulating rumours of a rift in the Pakistani Cabinet on the Kashmir issue. These rumours originated as the Pakistani Cabinet had to hold many sessions before it could reach a decision on the joint *communiqué* issued by the Prime Ministers of India and of Pakistan after their New Delhi talks. Neither Mr Chulani Mohammed's address before the Karachi Bar Association nor the Pakistani Prime Minister's radio talk to his people has succeeded in scotching these rumours.

It is known that the Pakistani Government has sent a memorandum to New Delhi, although its contents have not yet been disclosed. From an analysis of the inspired Press campaign in Pakistan and of Mr Mohammed Ali's radio talk to the nation, it is apparent that the Pakistani Cabinet is not united on the Kashmir issue. Indications are not lacking that the Pakistani Governor-General and the Premier are suspected by some Pakistani Cabinet Ministers to be pursuing a "soft" policy to India.

There is nothing wrong with Mr Mohammed Ali's version of the New Delhi talks. He says that agreement has been reached on two points only. A time-limit for the appointment of the Plebiscite Administrator is one of them. An agreement to appoint committees to thrash out "preliminary issues" is the other. How does this authentic version of the Pakistani Prime Minister fit in with the inspired Press campaign that the "preliminary issues" are not subject to negotiation?

In the joint *communiqué* issued after the New Delhi talks, it was agreed that the appointment of the Plebiscite Administrator was subject to a satisfactory solution of the "preliminary issues". Can it be that some influential elements in Pakistan are interested in disowning this agreement? It is equally difficult to appreciate the Pakistani Press campaign for Admiral Nimitz. It is insinuated that India's alleged opposition to Admiral Nimitz is a sinister move to withdraw the Kashmir dispute from the United Nations.

This cannot be done for techni-

cal reasons. But it is necessary to emphasise the widespread feeling in both countries that the Kashmir dispute can best be solved through direct negotiation. It is in this spirit that the recent Prime Minister's talks have been held. Both India and Pakistan must be allowed a voice in the appointment of the Plebiscite Administrator. But Karachi ignores that the formal appointment of the Plebiscite Administrator can only be done by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

## UN And Morocco

THAT the United Nations cannot achieve the object of maintaining world peace without the co-operation of the Big Powers, needs no dilation. This, however, does not mean that the Big Powers can dominate this world organisation to the neglect of the interests of the small Powers. Any such attempts at dictation by the Big Powers can

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